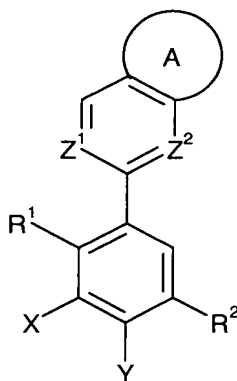


Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, -(CH₂)_k-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_kOR³, -(CH₂)_kCO₂R³, -(CH₂)_kNR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kCONR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHCOR³, -(CH₂)_kSO₂NR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHSO₂R³, -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C₁₋₂alkyl or -(CH₂)_kCO₂R³, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C₁₋₂alkyl;

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by -BR⁶, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by -(CH₂)_nheterocyclyl wherein the heterocyclyl is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected

from oxo, C₁₋₆alkyl, -(CH₂)_pphenyl, -OR⁷, -(CH₂)_pCO₂R⁷, -NR⁷R⁸ and -CONR⁷R⁸, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by -(CH₂)_qaryl or -(CH₂)_qheteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -OR⁹, -(CH₂)_rCO₂R¹⁰, -NR⁹R¹⁰, -(CH₂)_rCONR⁹R¹⁰, -NHCOR⁹, -SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, -NHSO₂R⁹ and -S(O)_sR⁹, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R¹ is selected from methyl and chloro;

R² is selected from -NH-CO-R¹¹ and -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹²;

R³ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, -(CH₂)_k-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_kphenyl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴ and -(CH₂)_kheteroaryl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴,

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R³ and R⁴, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

R⁵ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C₂₋₆alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R¹³ and/or R¹⁴ groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴;

R⁶ is a C₃₋₆alkyl group substituted by at least two substituents independently selected from -OR¹⁶, -NR¹⁶R¹⁷, -CO₂R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, -NHCOR¹⁶ and -NHSO₂R¹⁶;

R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, -(CH₂)_u-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_uheterocyclyl, -(CH₂)_uaryl, and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from -OR¹⁸ and -NR¹⁸R¹⁹,

R¹⁰ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R⁹ and R¹⁰, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

R¹¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_vheteroaryl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹, and -(CH₂)_vphenyl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹;

R¹² is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONHR²², phenyl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each independently selected from halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -CONR²²R²³, -COR²⁴, -CO₂R²⁴, and heteroaryl, or

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵, or a fused heteroaryl ring;

R¹⁵ is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸ and R¹⁹ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R²⁰ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONR²²R²³, -NHCOR²³, halogen, -CN, -(CH₂)_wNR²⁵R²⁶, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R²¹ groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R²¹ groups;

R²¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -(CH₂)_wNR²⁵R²⁶;

R²² and R²³ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R²² and R²³, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C₁₋₆alkyl groups;

R²⁴ is C₁₋₆alkyl;

R²⁵ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl,

R²⁶ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R²⁵ and R²⁶, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

B is selected from a bond, oxygen, NH and S(O)_x;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

Z¹ is N or N=O and Z² is CH,

Z¹ is CH and Z² is N or N=O, or

Z¹ and Z² are each independently selected from N or N=O;

k, m and w are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;
n, q, r, s, t and x are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; and
u and v are each independently selected from 0 and 1;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen, -(CH₂)_kNR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHCOR³, -(CH₂)_kNHSO₂R³ and -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵, or A is substituted by -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, cyano, -OR⁹ and -(CH₂)_tCO₂R¹⁰.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein A is substituted by -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵ or -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl or halogen.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein R¹ is methyl.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

7. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 58, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. (original) A compound selected from:
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{ 1-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridin-5-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(cyclopropylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-5-fluoro-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(3-methylphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl)benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(2-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;
3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;
3-[3-(acetylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{3-[(2-methylpropanoyl)amino]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-[3-(propanoylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]benzamide; and
N-(6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)-2-thiophenecarboxamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

11. (cancelled)

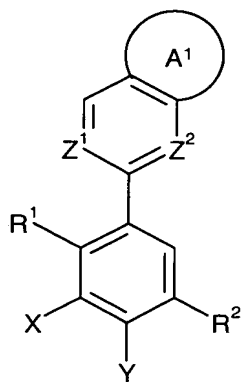
12. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

13.(currently amended) A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

14. (cancelled)

15.(currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, which comprises

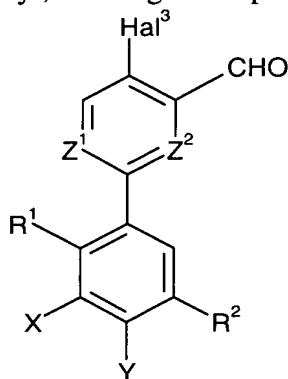
(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R¹, R², X, Y, Z¹ and Z² are as defined in claim 1 and A¹ is an unsubstituted fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen with a halide derivative, in the presence of a base;

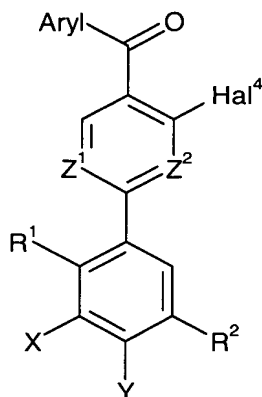
(b) when A is a fused pyrazolyl, reacting a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

in which R^1 , R^2 , X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as hereinbefore defined and Hal^3 is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative;

(c) when A is a fused pyrazolyl substituted by aryl, reacting a compound of formula (XII)



(XII)

in which R^1 , R^2 , X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as hereinbefore defined and Hal^4 is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative; or

(d) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

16. (new) A compound according to claim 2 wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, $-(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kNH SO_2R^3$ and $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, or A is substituted by $-(CH_2)_q$ aryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or two

substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, cyano, -OR⁹ and -(CH₂)_rCO₂R¹⁰.

17. (new) A compound according to claim 16 wherein A is substituted by -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵ or -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl or halogen.

18. (new) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R¹ is methyl.

19. (new) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

20. (new) A compound according to claim 16 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.